

HAMLET POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

10 South Starke Street, P.O. Box 2 Hamlet, IN 46532 Ph. (574) 867-2623

CHIEF
FRANK LONIGRO III

CHIEF DEPUTY
KYLE HINDS

09-17-2012

On the day of September 15, 2012 an Officer with the Hamlet Police Department approached the residence at 218 Railroad ST in Hamlet and spoke with a female subject in the yard in reference to a subject possibly in the home that was wanted on a warrant through Marshall County. The female stated the Wanted female subject was not here at the time that only her car was. The officer then asked to speak with Kenneth Schoff who also lived at this residence. She said just a second and went in the home to get him. The officer waited on the sidewalk to speak with the male subject.

As Kenneth opened the house door saying "hey what's up?" a Brindle Colored Pit-bull came running out of the house barking and growling in a mean manor and lunged off the porch onto the officer. At this time the officer believed the dog was trying to bite him. The officer pushed the dog off of him. The dog lunged back at the officer trying to bite him and the officer had to draw his duty weapon and fire three shots attempting to stop the aggressive behavior. The dog was struck by these shots.

The pit-bull then fell back onto the ground and squirmed around for about 15 seconds. During this time the officer had backed up about 15 feet away from the dog and was standing on the Street. The dog then came back at the officer trying to bite him a second time. The officer fired two more shots and the dog fell back to the ground in the middle of road.

The owner was extremely upset and yelling, the officer apologized and tried to explain to him that he no choice, that the way the dog attacked him, he had to protect himself for fear of being bit or worse. The dog owner could not understand this and continued to yell murderer.

The officer spoke with the father of the dog owner and a friend of the dog owner who were at the house at that time. The officer offered his apologies and explained that he was in fear of the attacking dog, and had no other option but to protect himself.

*Upon further investigation by Town Marshal Frank Lonigro III found that the Officer Involved acted within Departments Operating procedures and was justified in discharging his weapon to stop the aggressive manner of the animal. The officer involved first tried pushing the animal off of him and this did not work and I believe he had no choice but to use the amount of force necessary to stop the aggressive behavior to protect himself.

Also by Town Ordinance #04022008 Article V. Section C. Animal Control states that it shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal or person having control of any animal to permit the animal to interfere with or attack a POLICE OFFICER, Sheriff's process server, building inspector, or any other government, telephone or utility employee in the normal execution of his duties. The animal involved is also not registered through the Town of Hamlet which is required (as pursuant to ordinance#04022008).

HAMLET POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

10 South Starke Street, P.O. Box 2 Hamlet, IN 46532 Ph. (574) 867-2623

CHIEF
FRANK LONIGRO III

CHIEF DEPUTY
KYLE HINDS

09-17-2012

On the day of September 15, 2012 an Officer with the Hamlet Police Department approached the residence at 218 Railroad ST in Hamlet and spoke with a female subject in the yard in reference to a subject possibly in the home that was wanted on a warrant through Marshall County. The female stated the Wanted female subject was not here at the time that only her car was. The officer then asked to speak with Kenneth Schoff who also lived at this residence. She said just a second and went in the home to get him. The officer waited on the sidewalk to speak with the male subject.

As Kenneth opened the house door saying "hey what's up?" a Brindle Colored Pit-bull came running out of the house barking and growling in a mean manor and lunged off the porch onto the officer. At this time the officer believed the dog was trying to bite him. The officer pushed the dog off of him. The dog lunged back at the officer trying to bite him and the officer had to draw his duty weapon and fire three shots attempting to stop the aggressive behavior. The dog was struck by these shots.

The pit-bull then fell back onto the ground and squirmed around for about 15 seconds. During this time the officer had backed up about 15 feet away from the dog and was standing on the Street. The dog then came back at the officer trying to bite him a second time. The officer fired two more shots and the dog fell back to the ground in the middle of road.

The owner was extremely upset and yelling, the officer apologized and tried to explain to him that he no choice, that the way the dog attacked him, he had to protect himself for fear of being bit or worse. The dog owner could not understand this and continued to yell murderer.

The officer spoke with the father of the dog owner and a friend of the dog owner who were at the house at that time. The officer offered his apologies and explained that he was in fear of the attacking dog, and had no other option but to protect himself.

*Upon further investigation by Town Marshal Frank Lonigro III found that the Officer Involved acted within Departments Operating procedures and was justified in discharging his weapon to stop the aggressive manner of the animal. The officer involved first tried pushing the animal off of him and this did not work and I believe he had no choice but to use the amount of force necessary to stop the aggressive behavior to protect himself.

Also by Town Ordinance #04022008 Article V, Section C. Animal Control states that it shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal or person having control of any animal to permit the animal to interfere with or attack a POLICE OFFICER, Sheriff's process server, building inspector, or any other government, telephone or utility employee in the normal execution of his duties. The animal involved is also not registered through the Town of Hamlet which is required (as pursuant to ordinance#04022008).